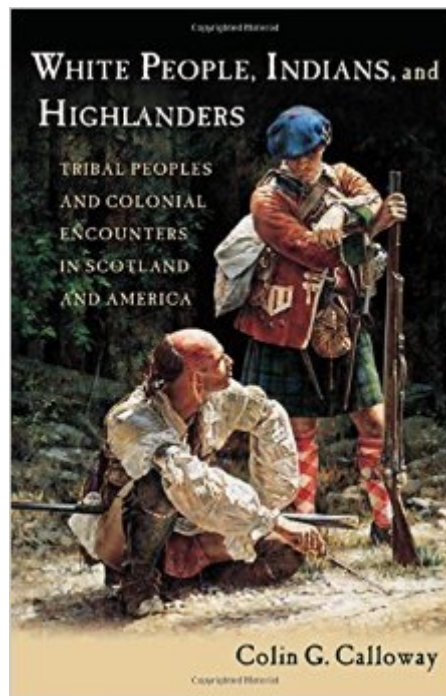


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White People, Indians, And Highlanders: Tribal People And Colonial Encounters In Scotland And America



Synopsis

In nineteenth century paintings, the proud Indian warrior and the Scottish Highland chief appear in similar ways--colorful and wild, righteous and warlike, the last of their kind. Earlier accounts depict both as barbarians, lacking in culture and in need of civilization. By the nineteenth century, intermarriage and cultural contact between the two--described during the Seven Years' War as cousins--was such that Cree, Mohawk, Cherokee, and Salish were often spoken with Gaelic accents. In this imaginative work of imperial and tribal history, Colin Calloway examines why these two seemingly wildly disparate groups appear to have so much in common. Both Highland clans and Native American societies underwent parallel experiences on the peripheries of Britain's empire, and often encountered one another on the frontier. Indeed, Highlanders and American Indians fought, traded, and lived together. Both groups were treated as tribal peoples--remnants of a barbaric past--and eventually forced from their ancestral lands as their traditional food sources--cattle in the Highlands and bison on the Great Plains--were decimated to make way for livestock farming. In a familiar pattern, the cultures that conquered them would later romanticize the very ways of life they had destroyed. *White People, Indians, and Highlanders* illustrates how these groups alternately resisted and accommodated the cultural and economic assault of colonialism, before their eventual dispossession during the Highland Clearances and Indian Removals. What emerges is a finely-drawn portrait of how indigenous peoples with their own rich identities experienced cultural change, economic transformation, and demographic dislocation amidst the growing power of the British and American empires.

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Customer Reviews

During this age of re-negotiating our collective past and future an observant reader should pick up Colin Calloway's, 'White People, Indians, and Highlanders: Tribal People and Colonial Encounters in Scotland and America,' if for no other reason than to gain a fresh perspective on the history of capitalism and the lives of those it impacted; for the book portrays the ways in which internal colonization often mirrors the external, destroying and remaking the lives of those colonized. Mr. Calloway makes no excuses for the lives of those he studies, illustrating how the actors within the pageant of history are often guided by selfish motives. However, he dispels the myth of a monolithic past, illustrating that on the frontier multiple ethnicities were involved, including warring Native American tribes, the French, the British, the Spanish, and the Scotch. He begins his analysis by providing the reader with background information on the Highland Scotch and the Native Americans. The reader learns that the Highlander Scots were remnants of the ancient Celts. Their culture was clan based, built around a pastoral economy centered on cattle in which land was held communally by the clan. Clans often were in conflict with each other carrying out revenge for cattle, land, and honor. Although there had been previous attempts to establish law and order in the Highlands by the Romans, the Lowland Scotch, and the British; the dispute over the secession of the English throne, the Jacobite rebellions that resulted, and the concurrent Protestant-Catholic conflict spelled the end to a separate Highland culture as the British began a systematic effort to disenfranchise Highlanders from their land and transform their culture.

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